

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass

Vote: 8 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Boone, Esquivel, Freeman, Komp, Matthews, Riley, Weidner, Cowan

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: David Molina, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 4/30, 5/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows the Director of the Department of Veterans' Affairs to request fingerprints for the purposes of conducting criminal background checks on all agency and non-agency personnel who come into contact of departmental personal records, financial and tax transactions, business mail relating to the agency and its clients.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The need to grant authority to request fingerprints of certain employees and contractors/vendors for the purpose of conducting background investigations
- The need to ensure security measures are in place to protect patients and veterans
- Challenges to current statute
- Agency request

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Currently, the Director of the Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) has the authority to conduct criminal background checks on employees accessing the Oregon Veterans' Home as a security measure to protect its patients. The Oregon Veterans' Home has a total of 151 beds, 25 of which are specifically for residents. ODVA has no authority, however, to request fingerprints on new and current employees or its contractors who come into contact with ODVA confidential documents. Those documents include: Social Security numbers, private medical records, DD-214 military discharge documents, financial disclosure information and tax information. ODVA has a total of 111 employees; however, the provision of the measure is not retroactive and would not impact current employees, unless those employees transfer assignments within the agency.